

We claim:

1. A composition comprising:

(a) a saponin; and

(b) an oligonucleotide comprising at least one unmethylated CpG

dinucleotide.

2. The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the saponin is derived from *Quillaja saponaria*.

3. The composition as claimed in claim 2, wherein the saponin is chemically modified.

4. The composition as claimed in claim 2, wherein the saponin comprises a substantially pure saponin.

5. The composition as claimed in claim 4, wherein the substantially pure saponin comprises QS-7, QS-17, QS-18, or QS-21.

6. The composition as claimed in claim 5, wherein the substantially pure saponin comprises QS-21.

7. The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the oligonucleotide is chemically modified.

8. The composition as claimed in claim 7, wherein the oligonucleotide is modified with at least one phosphorothioate internucleotide linkage.

9. The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the oligonucleotide comprises a CpG motif having the formula  $5'X_1CGX_23'$ , wherein at least one nucleotide

separates consecutive CpGs, and wherein  $X_1$  is adenine, guanine, or thymine, and  $X_2$  is cytosine, thymine, or adenine.

10. The composition as claimed in claim 9, wherein the CpG motif comprises TCCATGACGTTCTGACGTT or TCGTCGTTTTGTCGTTTTGTCGTT.

11. The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the composition increases an innate immune response when administered to a mammal.

12. The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the composition increases an innate immune response when administered to a human.

13. The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the composition increases an innate immune response when administered to a mammal other than a human.

14. The composition as claimed in claim 11, wherein the composition further enhances a natural killer cell response.

15. The composition as claimed in claim 14, wherein the composition further enhances a natural killer cell response in a positive synergistic manner.

16. A method for stimulating innate immunity comprising administering an effective amount of a composition comprising:

- (a) a saponin; and
- (b) an oligonucleotide comprising at least one unmethylated CpG motif to an individual.

17. The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the saponin is derived from *Quillaja saponaria*.

18. The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the saponin is chemically modified.

19. The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the saponin comprises a substantially pure saponin.

20. The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the substantially pure saponin comprises QS-7, QS-17, QS-18, or QS-21.

21. The method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the substantially pure saponin comprises QS-21.

22. The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the oligonucleotide is chemically modified.

23. The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the oligonucleotide is modified with at least one phosphorothioate internucleotide linkage.

24. The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the oligonucleotide comprises a CpG motif having the formula 5'X<sub>1</sub>CGX<sub>2</sub>3', wherein at least one nucleotide separates consecutive CpGs, and wherein X<sub>1</sub> is adenine, guanine, or thymine, and X<sub>2</sub> is cytosine, thymine, or adenine.

25. The method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the CpG motif comprises TCCATGACGTTTCCTGACGTT or TCGTCGTTTTGTCGTTTTGTCGTT.

26. The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the composition stimulates an innate immune response when administered to a mammal.

27. The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the composition stimulates an innate immune response when administered to a human.

28. The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the composition stimulates an innate immune response when administered to a mammal other than a human.

29. The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the method further enhances a natural killer cell response.

30. The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the method further enhances a natural killer cell response in a positive synergistic manner.

31. A method for stimulating innate immunity comprising administering an effective amount of a composition comprising a saponin to an individual.

32. The method as claimed in claim 31, wherein the saponin is derived from *Quillaja saponaria*.

33. The method as claimed in claim 32, wherein the saponin is modified.

34. The method as claimed in claim 32, wherein the saponin comprises a substantially pure saponin.

35. The method as claimed in claim 34, wherein the substantially pure saponin comprises QS-7, QS-17, QS-18, or QS-21.

36. The method as claimed in claim 35, wherein the substantially pure saponin comprises QS-21.

37. The method as claimed in claim 32, wherein the composition stimulates an innate immune response when administered to a mammal.

38. The method as claimed in claim 32, wherein the composition stimulates an innate immune response when administered to a human.

39. The method as claimed in claim 32, wherein the composition stimulates an innate immune response when administered to a mammal other than a human.

40. The method as claimed in claim 32, wherein the method further enhances a natural killer cell response.

41. The method as claimed in claim 40, wherein the method further enhances a natural killer cell response in a positive synergistic manner.

42. The composition as claimed in claim 12, wherein the composition further enhances a natural killer cell response.

43. The composition as claimed in claim 13, wherein the composition further enhances a natural killer cell response.

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